

Supervisor Romaine, Councilwoman Cartright Celebrate 350th Anniversary of Historic Brewster House in East Setauket

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Farmingville, NY – On December 7, Brookhaven Town Supervisor Ed Romaine, Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright, and members of the Ward Melville Heritage Organization (WMHO) celebrated the 350th Anniversary of the historic Brewster House (c. 1665) in East Setauket. The house, which was home to six generations of Brewsters, is considered the oldest in the Town of Brookhaven. During the American Revolution, it served as a tavern and general store, entertaining British troops. A frequent visitor during that time was American Patriot Caleb Brewster, a member of George Washington's Culper Spy Ring. As a Continental Army Officer,

Brewster served under spy ring organizer Major Benjamin Talmadge, and participated in a number of critical military actions.

Pictured front row left to right are WMHO President Gloria Rocchio, Town Historian Barbara Russell, WMHO Trustee Anna Kerekes and WMHO Trustee Charles Napoli. Back row left to right are Legislator Kara Hahn, Councilwoman Valerie M. Cartright, WMHO Chairman of the Board Dr. Richard Rugen, Supervisor Ed Romaine, Town Clerk Donna Lent and WMHO Trustee Mary VanTuyt.

"East Setauket has a rich history that dates back to the first settlers in Brookhaven Town, and the Brewster House is a lasting part of that history," said Supervisor Romaine. "Thanks to the Ward Melville Heritage Organization, historic landmarks like this have been preserved for future generations to enjoy and learn more about how we got to where we are today."

"I would like to thank the Ward Melville Heritage Organization (WMHO) for their work to preserve and educate our community about the past of the Three Village area, as well as their dedication to preserving our present and future environment at West Meadow Beach," stated Councilwoman Cartright. "The WMHO is an excellent steward of the oldest house in Brookhaven and we appreciate their key role in maintaining the Brewster House legacy."

In addition to celebrating the 350th Anniversary of the Brewster House, Supervisor Romaine and Councilwoman Cartright presented a \$10,258 check to the WMHO from the Town of Brookhaven/New York State Department of Environmental Conservation Long Island Invasive Species Management Area Grant for removal of perennial pepperweed from West Meadow Beach. WMHO has coordinated volunteers and students and incorporated the impacts caused by non-native invasive species into their summer marsh science curriculums. In particular, Debra Boudreau and Maureen Dunn have coordinated the efforts for WMHO with the support of their Director, Gloria Rocchio.

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